

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

All claims that were originally filed, claims 1 through 9, in this Amendment A and Response. Independent claims 1 and 5 are currently amended, and claims 2-4 and 6-9 are presented as originally filed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In section 2 of the Examiner's office action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-9 (including independent claims 1, 5 and 8) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated US Patent 6,460,120 issued to Bass. The Examiner states that Bass, via the interface device of Fig 1 and column 7, line 60 through column 8, line 15), anticipates claims 1-9. The applicant respectfully traverses. The Examiner states that the cited parts of Bass disclose the claimed elements of the network address processor of claim 1, namely:

“a longest prefix match lookup engine for receiving a network address request having a designated network destination address”

and

“an associated data engine coupled to the longest prefix match lookup engine for receiving a longest prefix match lookup engine output address and providing a network address processor data output corresponding to the designated network destination address”

The Examiner presents a similar argument for the claimed elements of the network address processor integrated circuit of claim 5.

Applicants submit that the Classified Assist Engine (CHA) of Bass (column 7, line 66) does not provide an output address to an associate data engine, as recited in presented claims 1 and 5. In order to clarify the distinction between the relevant elements of claims 1 and 5 and the citation in Bass, the Applicants have amended the corresponding element of claims 1 and 5 from “an associated data engine coupled to the longest prefix match lookup engine for:

“receiving a longest prefix match lookup engine output address”

to:

“receiving an output address from the longest prefix match lookup engine”

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these rejections over Bass.

Regarding independent method claim 8, the Examiner cites the same section of Bass in rejecting claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The applicant respectfully traverses, using the same argument cited above, in that the Classified Assist Engine (CHA) of Bass (column 7, line 66) does not provide an output address to an associate data engine. The Applicants have not amended claim 8 because they believe that the language of the relevant element:

“searching the set of lookup tables to select a look up engine address output from the set of lookup tables to provide to an associated data engine”

is already sufficiently clear to distinguish it from Bass. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these rejections over Bass.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner office action in the current case was mailed on 7/29/20003, the period of response extending to 6 months (with 3 month extension), to 1/29/2004. The required fee for 3-month extension is enclosed. The number of independent and total claims in the current amendment is unchanged, so there is no claim fee due. Should there be any fee due beyond the amount enclosed, the Examiner is authorized to charge it to the user account customer number listed below.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted by Applicants that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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